

Seymour Board of Education



AD HOC BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 7, 2014

Chatfield-LoPresti Gym

7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Harmeling, Chairperson

Yashu Putorti

Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Saundra Gesek, BOE

Jennifer Magri, BOE

Fred Stanek, BOE

Christine Syriac, Superintendent

Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations

Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent

MarySue Feige, Principal, BS

David Olechna, Principal, CLS

Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS

Glenn Lungarini, Principal, SHS

James Freund, Asst. Principal, SHS

Leslie Sojka, Asst. Principal, CLS

Virginia Tagliatela, Director of Special Education

Jennifer Batterton

Alison Brett

Trisha Danko

Cindy Dion

Eugene Driscoll

Kelley Garofalo

Agatha Parlak

Kathleen Pelletier

Tara Petrino

Katie Riordan

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Salute to the Flag

Mrs. Harmeling called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Ad Hoc Committee Opening Comments

Mrs. Harmeling stated that the purpose of this meeting was to get input from the public before the budget was presented to the town. She asked that people remember that the state mandates a certain amount of what we can/cannot do, that we have a finite amount of money and that our resources are limited. This is not a budget presentation but strictly a meeting to give out current information and to have an informed discussion.

B. Presentation

The presentation is attached for review. During the presentation Mrs. Harmeling stressed that we have been working with little to no increase since 2008 and we need to get the word out to the community to get them to vote in support of the budget. She also commented that a lot of the new programs that have been introduced have been funded with grant money, i.e. the Alternate Energy Program at the High School. Also, our technology infrastructure is ready to support a 1-to-1 or BYOD Program. A technology grant has just been awarded for approximately \$250, 000, to help support this objective. She mentioned the importance of technology as a survey revealed that 85% of our parents are on Facebook and/or other social media sites.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

A. Opening Discussion on Issues Pertaining to School Budget

Mrs. Dion, 18 Carriage Drive, Seymour CT 06483 wanted to know why there is no consistency between the elementary schools in regard to programs, i.e. a Coding Program is offered at Bungay but not at Chatfield-LoPresti. She says this makes parents angry therefore causing some people to refuse to vote. Mrs. Syriac said they have worked very hard to align academics between the two schools but as far as voluntary programs that has to be decided on a building level. The committee brought up the new state guidelines that say we can't use our internet system to alert parents to vote. Mrs. Syriac said Mr. Miller would have to send a message to the entire town. Mrs. Parlak, 239 Pearl Street, Seymour wanted to know if a Seymour Public Schools Community Page couldn't be created, including a full-fledge Facebook page. The vote could be posted on there to get people out to vote. She also felt a Chat Page instead of these meetings would be helpful and reach more people. She also stated that the Board of Education should do these presentations at the PTA meetings, and a mailer should also go out to the entire town. Mr. Putorti said he felt that this was a way to get the pulse of the town and that possibly they could do the budget review as a webinar. Mrs. Conroy, Skokorat Street, Seymour, stated that she was blown away by what is being done in Seymour's Schools but we need to get the positives out to the media. It seems that the negatives are out there but not what our children are really doing. Mr. Putorti stated that bad press and sporting news is easy to get out but it is not as easy to get good press about academics published. Mrs. Parlak said she would help get a newsletter written by parents and teachers put out quarterly if the Board of Education paid for the printing and postage letting people know what is really happening in our schools. Mrs. Brett, 11 Stanley Drive, Seymour, said that she felt teachers and staff are the most important and that people move to town for the educational system especially in regard to special education. She stated that since she has been in town the number of special-education staff has decreased. Mrs. Syriac responded that she would look into this claim and report back to the BOE with her findings. She doesn't believe the PK-12 department is smaller. Mrs. Dion wanted to know if the elimination of the Curriculum Director hurt us with the implementation of the common core. Mr. Putorti said of course it made an impact by forcing other staff members to assume those responsibilities. Mrs. Brett suggested we use outside events such as sports to lobby for the budget. Mrs. Syriac talked about the Citizens Academy and how it was an outreach program to the community. It is hoped that those that attend will talk to other community members and either get the word out about what is happening in the schools or encourage them to attend the Citizens Academy themselves. Mrs. Petrino, 18 Woodcrest Road, Seymour, wanted to know the demographics of who has attended the Citizens Academy. Mrs. Syriac said it was a good split of Board of Finance members, retired staff, parents, and community members, but she would like to see more people attend. Mrs. Hamad suggested we take "the show on the road" to places like the Senior Center and do a presentation there. The other suggestions were to have longer voting hours or additional voting places.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

Mrs. Harmeling thanked everyone for coming.

V. ADJOURNMENT

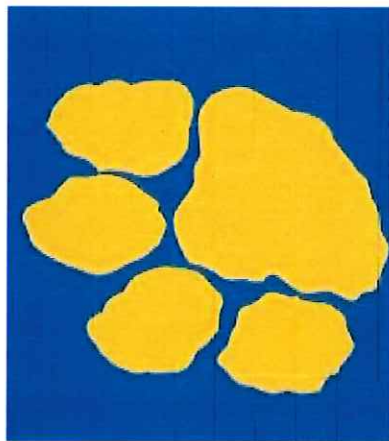
The meeting was adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle
Board Clerk

COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING

January 7, 2024

CHATFIELD-LOPRESTI SCHOOL
EDUCATION
PRESENTED BY AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF



THANK YOU FOR COMING!

Meeting flow:

Salute to Flag

Opening Comments

Presentation:

Budget - Current Budget & Process

Budget - Trends

Seymour Schools Strategic Plan

Discussion

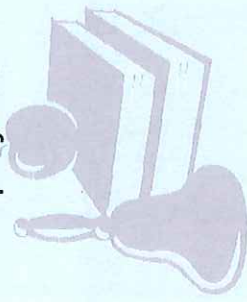
OPENING COMMENTS

- Ad-hoc Committee of the BOE – an opportunity to “Listen & learn”
- This meeting in response to requests to give Seymour community members a chance to proactively weigh in before budget presentation and submission
- A note of caution: limited resources & state mandates

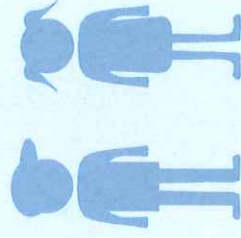
OPENING COMMENTS

Seymour Schools, by the (approximate!) numbers:

300 FT & PT
Employees



2,320 students



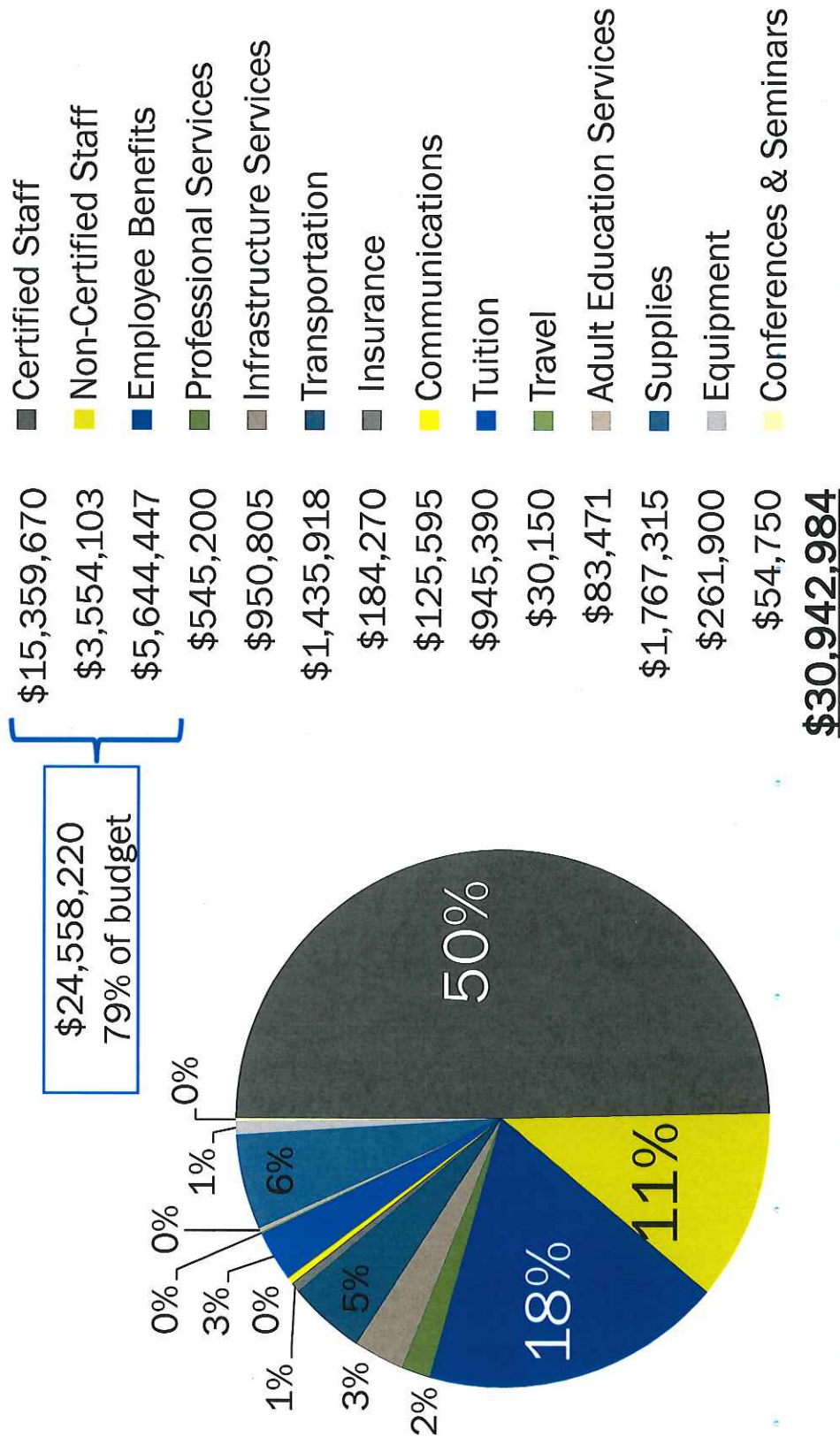
20+ Clubs



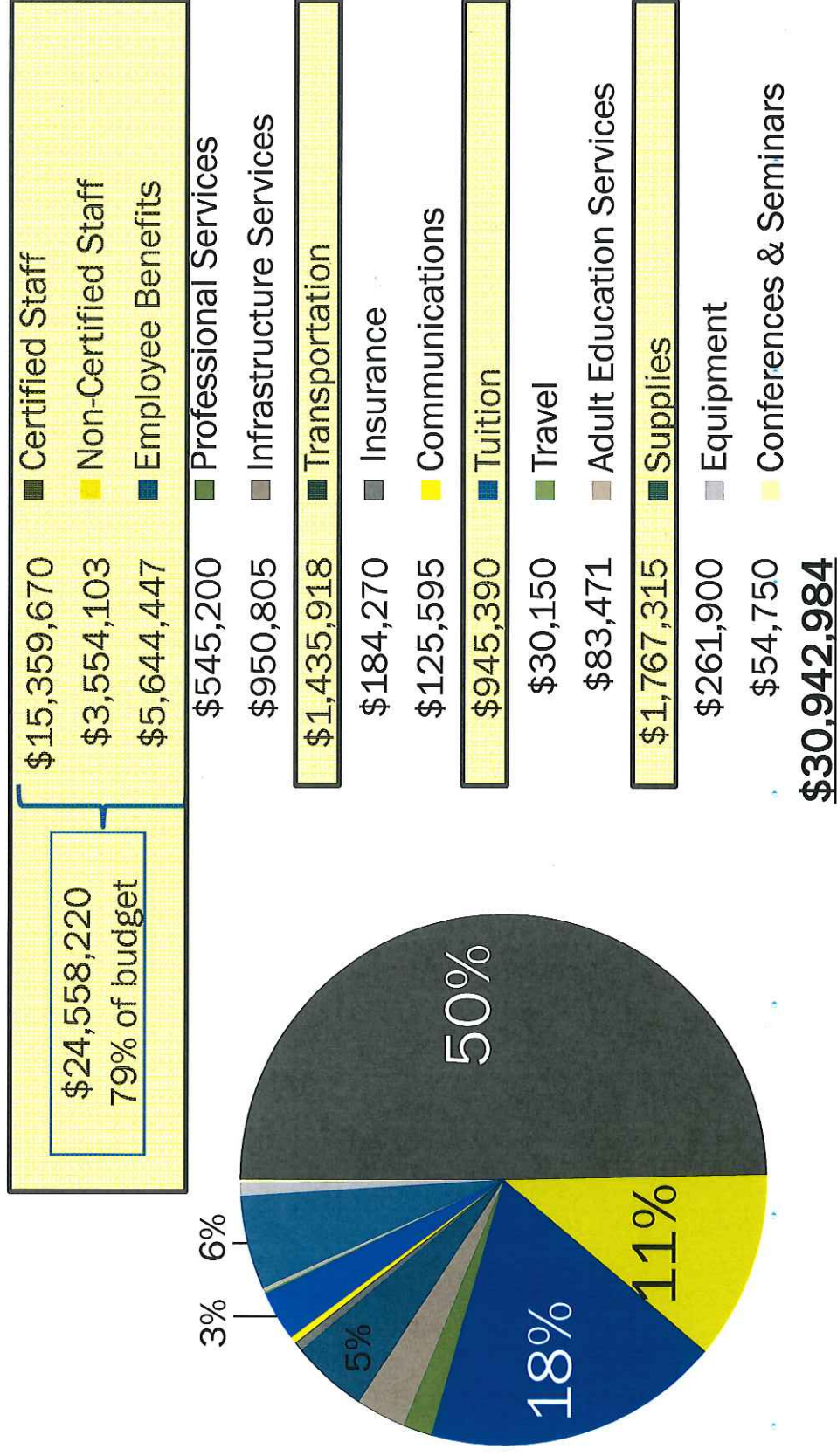
20+ Sports Teams



SEYMOUR SCHOOLS 2013-2014 BOE- APPROVED BUDGET

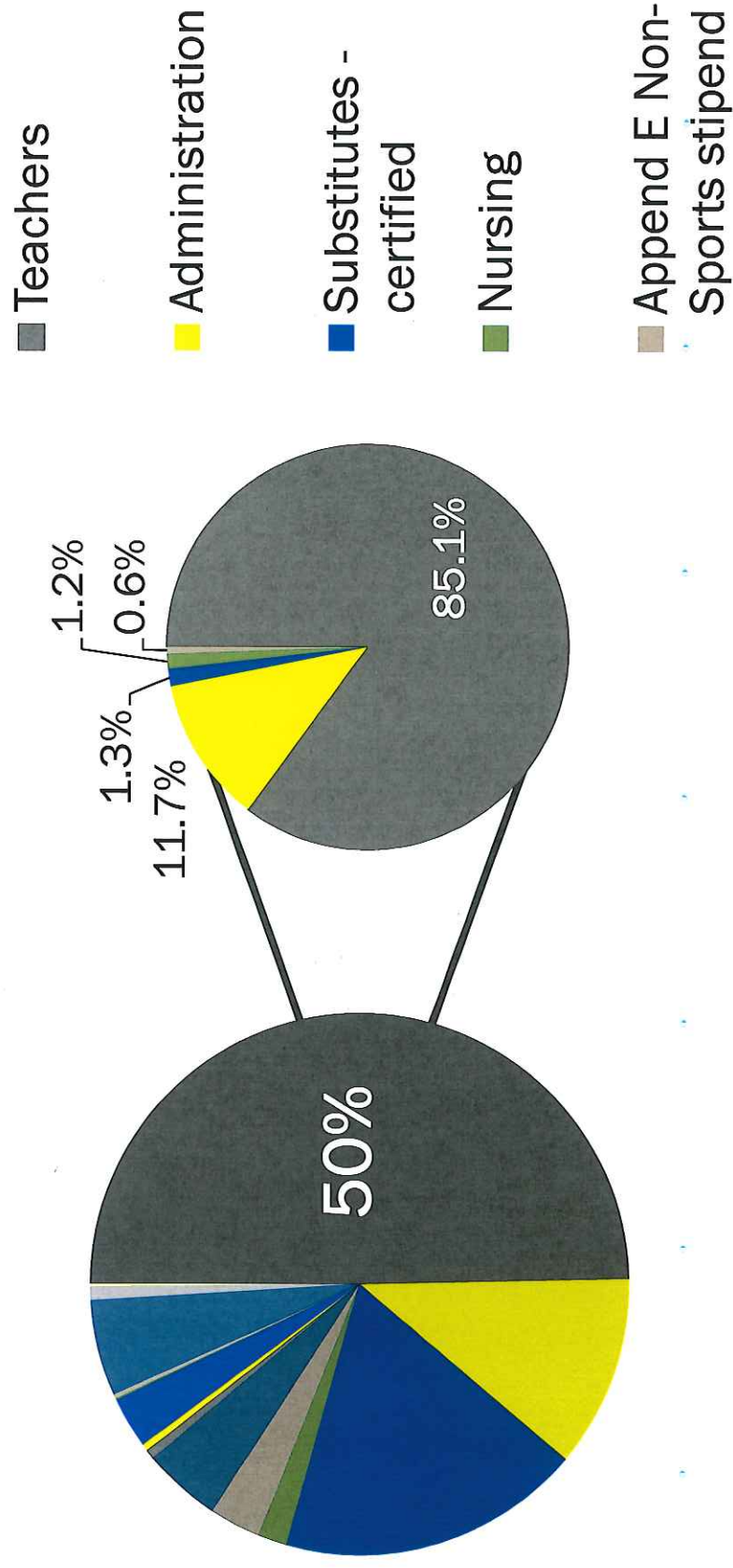


SEYMOUR SCHOOLS 2013-2014 BOE- APPROVED BUDGET



CERTIFIED STAFF: MAIN COMPONENTS

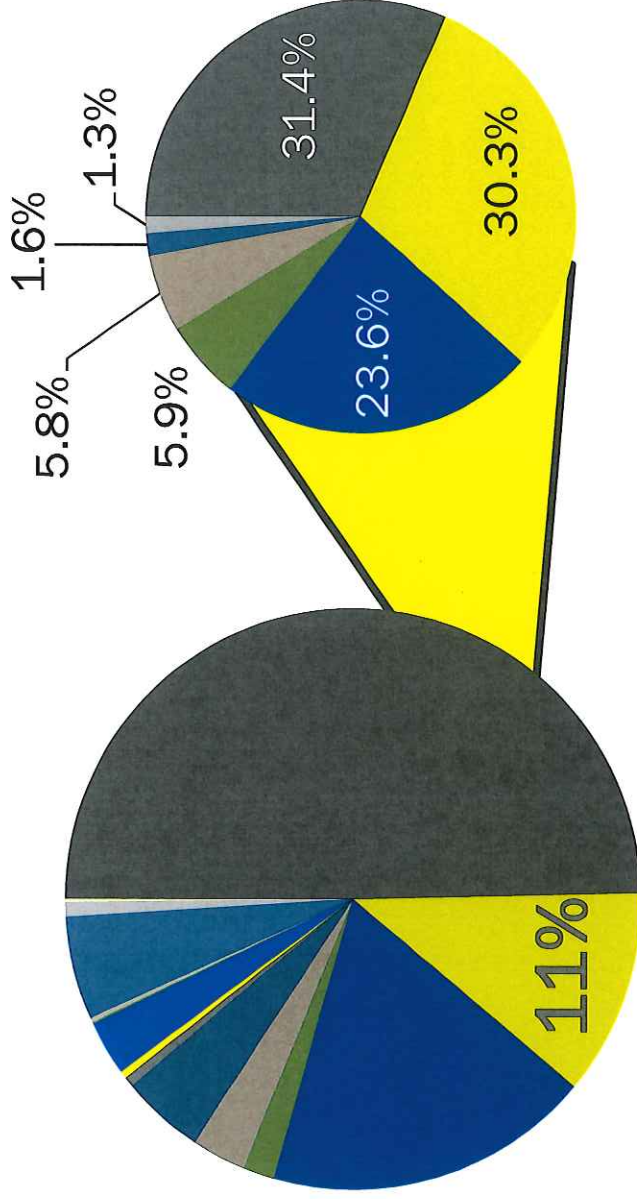
50% Certified Staff



NON-CERTIFIED STAFF: MAIN COMPONENTS

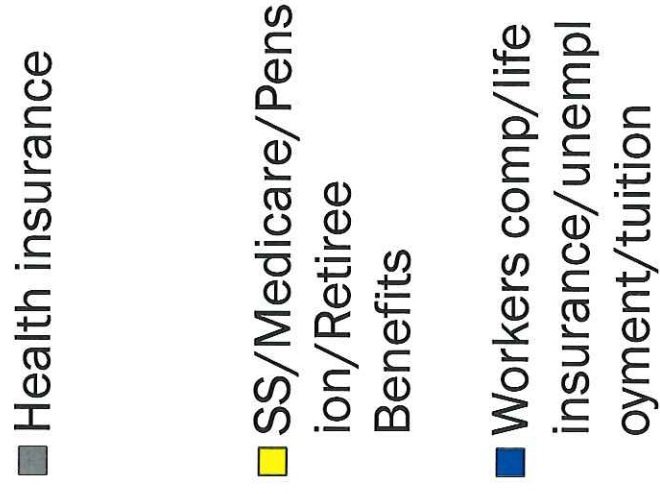
11% Non-Certified Staff

- Custodial services
- Office support
- Student paraprofessionals
- Technical services
- Appendix E Sports Stipends
- Security Services
- Substitutes - non certified staff



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: MAIN COMPONENTS

18% Employee Benefits



SEYMOUR BUDGET PROCESS

(DATES ARE APPROXIMATE – SET BY CHARTER, BOF AND BOS)

- Superintendent presents budget to BOE
- BOE approves budget (with revisions, should they choose to make any)
- Budget is submitted to Town
- BOE presents budget in budget workshop to BOF
- BOF files budget for Town Hearing (with revisions to BOE bottom line, should they choose to make any)
- BOF files budget for Annual Town Meeting (with revisions to BOE bottom line, should they choose to make any)
- First Referendum
- If fail, BOF makes revisions to BOE bottom line, resubmits to referendum vote
- Previous step repeats until budget is passed.
- The BOE adjusts the budget to reflect approved referendum amount allocated to BOE.

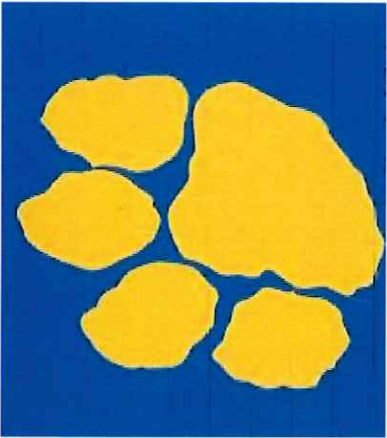
JAN

FEB/-APR

MARCH - JUNE

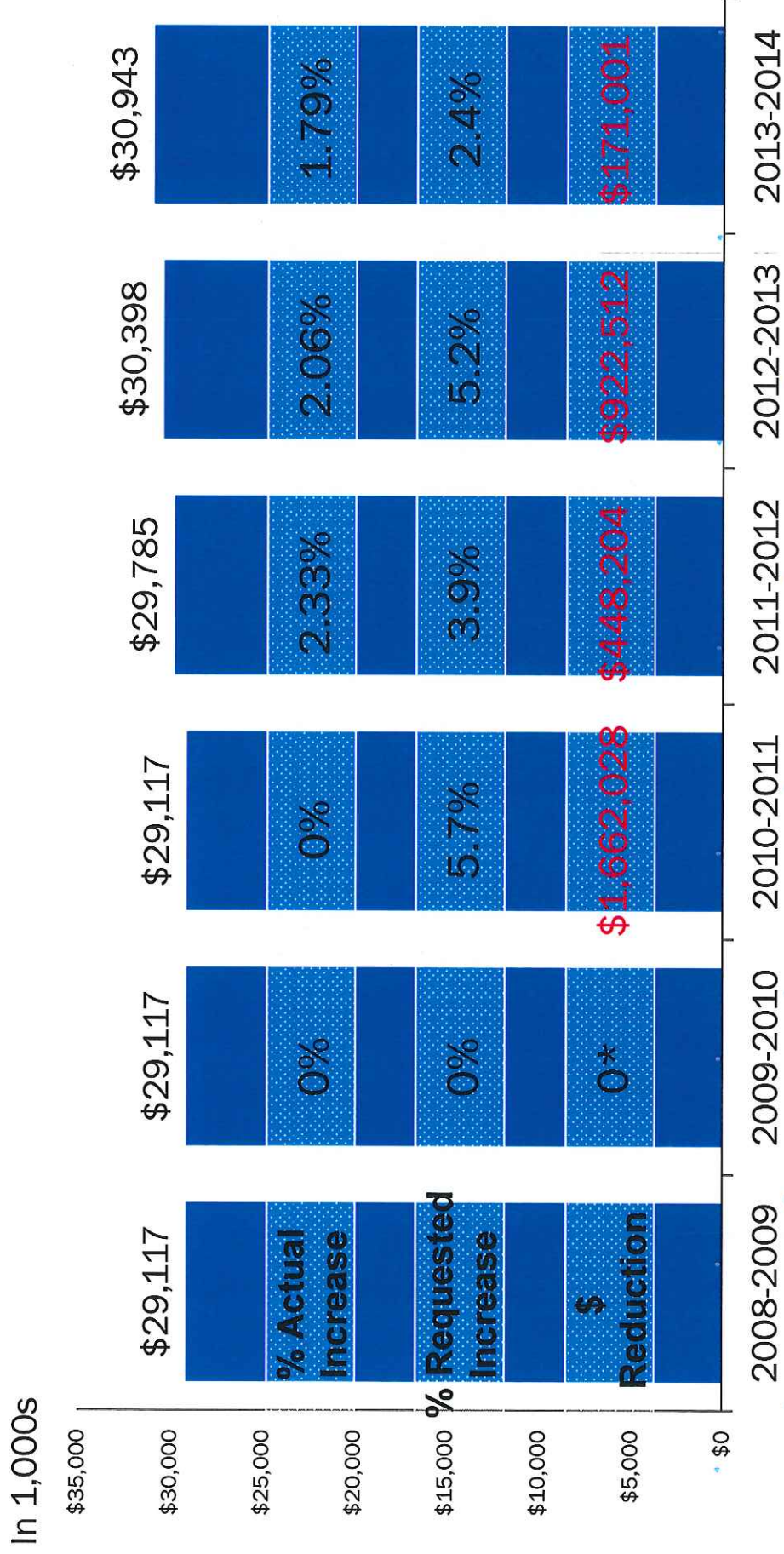
JUNE/JULY

BUDGET REVIEW



BUDGET HISTORY

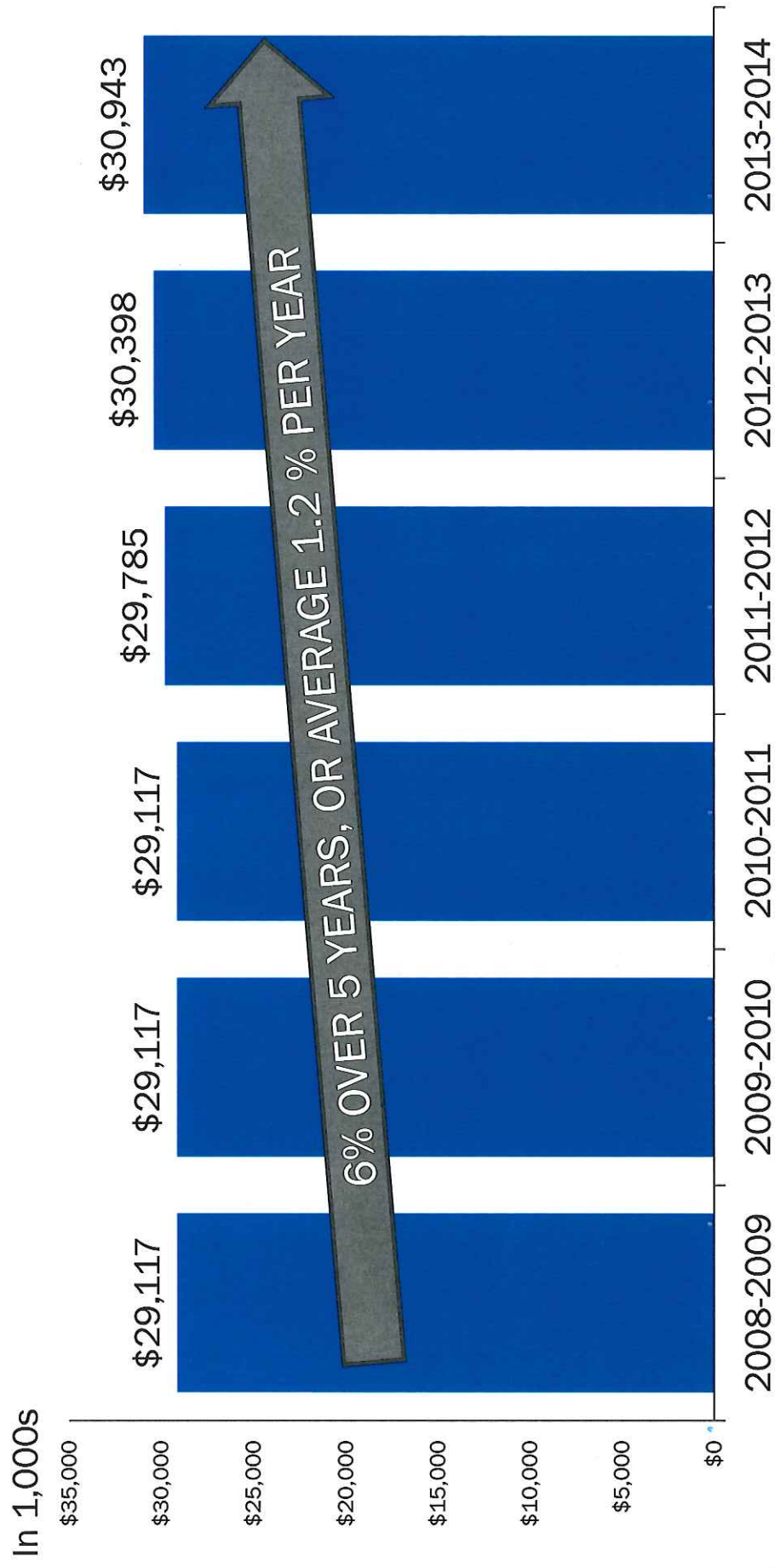
Approved Budget (after referendum passed)



* Required "cutting" \$1.3M from the budget in order to meet non-negotiable increases (insurance, utilities, salaries, etc.)

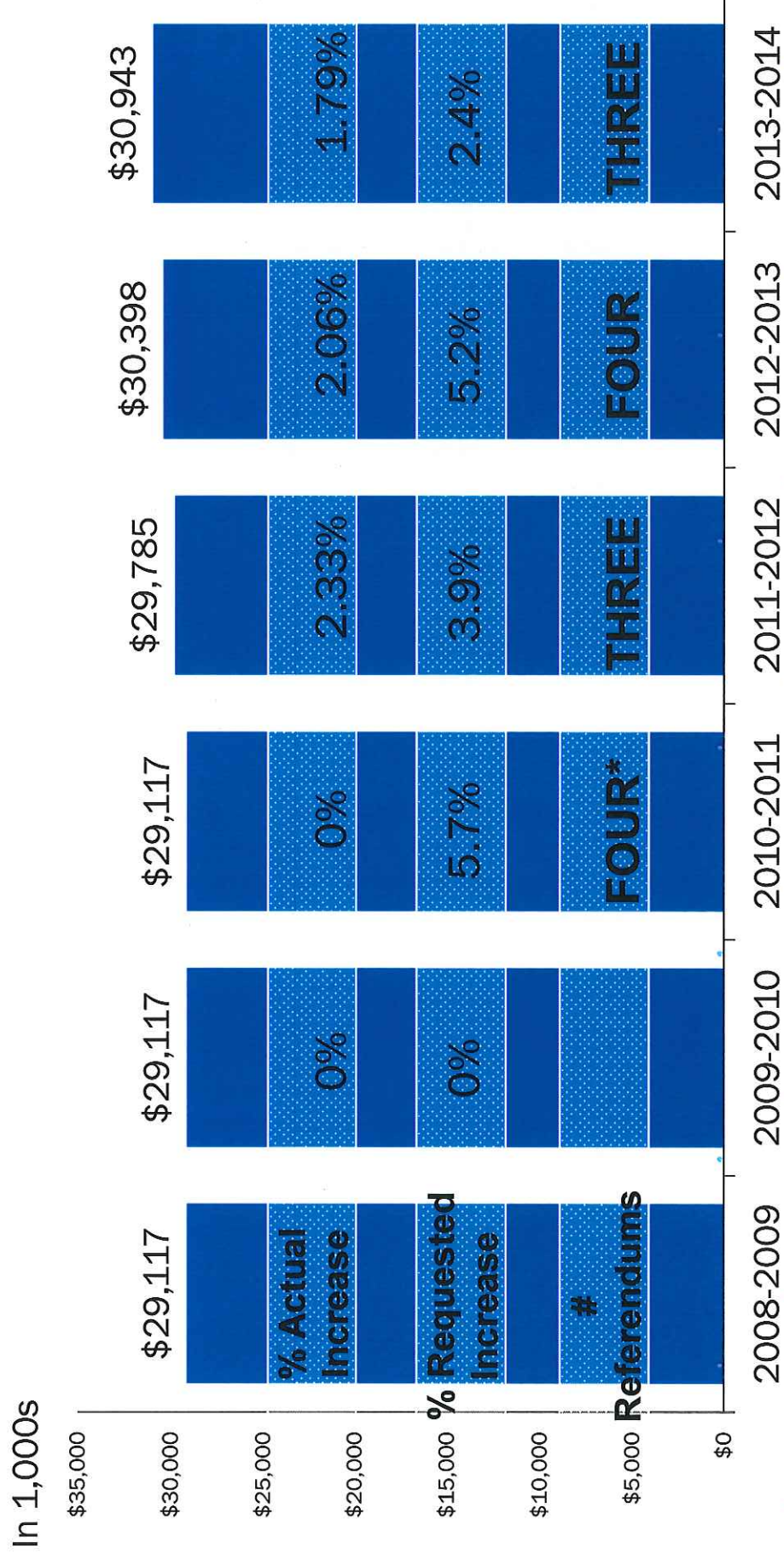
BUDGET HISTORY

Approved Budget (after referendum passed)



REFERENDUM HISTORY

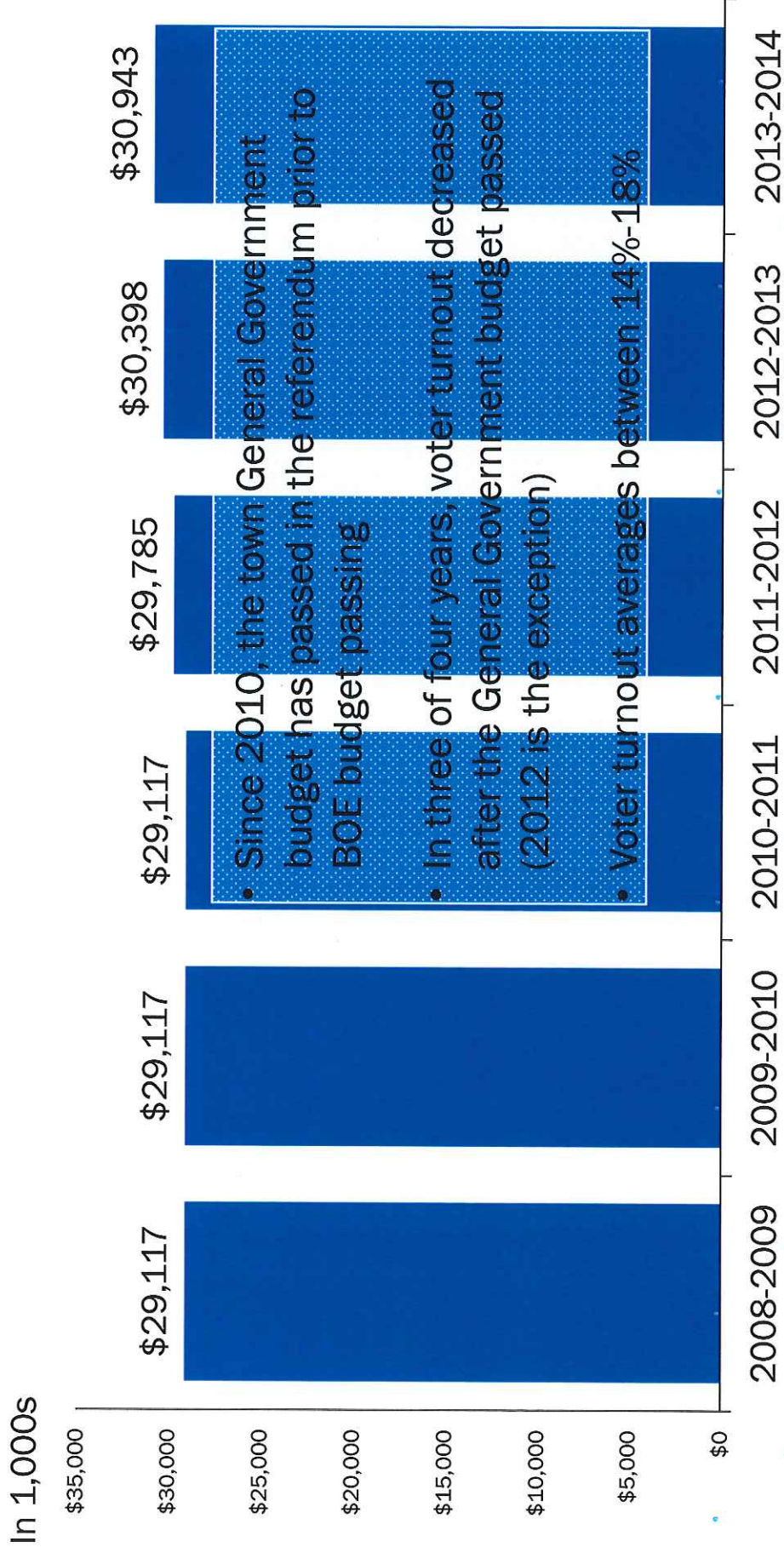
Approved Budget (after referendum passed)



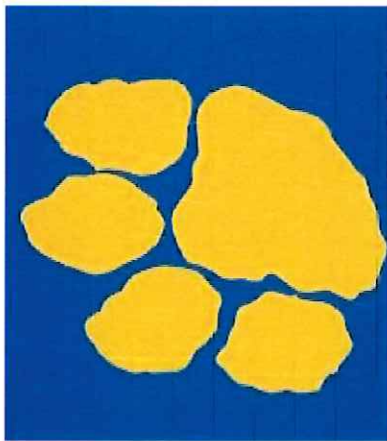
* Includes failing a 0% increase on the third referendum.

REFERENDUM HISTORY

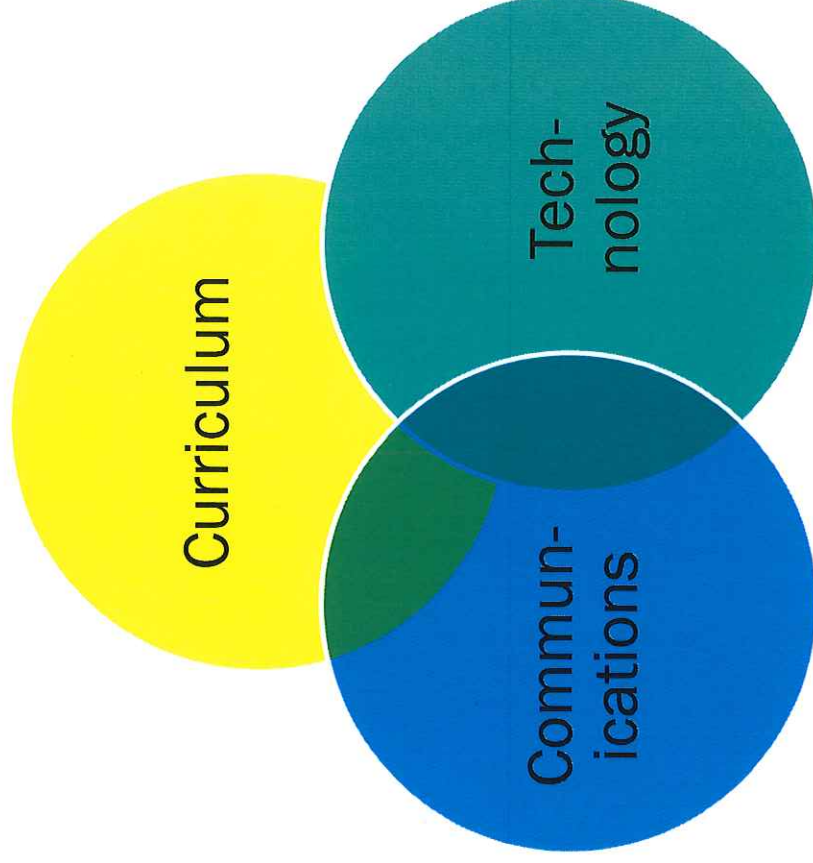
Approved Budget (after referendum passed)



STRATEGIC PLAN

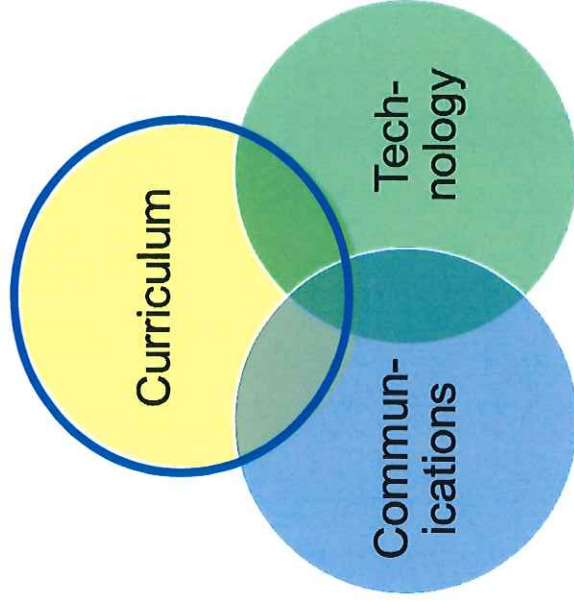


SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS



Focus on each to improve student achievement

SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS



Goal One: Curriculum

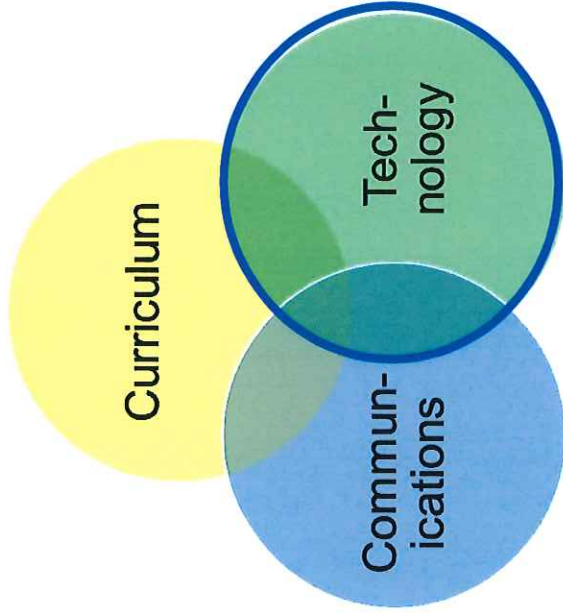
Develop and implement a well articulated Pre-K through 12 Curriculum that identifies knowledge and skills along with appropriate instruction and assessment strategies.

STEPS THE DISTRICT HAS TAKEN:

- Additional high school courses focused on STEM, the Arts, Fine Arts, and World Languages
- Creation of new ELA and math curriculum
- Other curriculum on five-year cycles to refresh and renew – a collaborative effort: teachers, administration, consultants
- Continual Professional Development
- Full day kindergarten
- SRBI



SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS



Goal Two: Technology

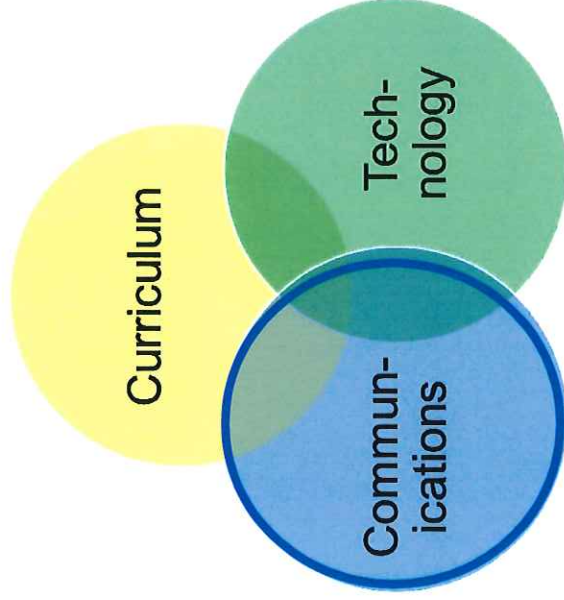
Redefine and recreate the learning environment (instructional approaches, technologies, and resources) in ways that incorporate our emerging understanding of how students learn and how technology is changing the way they engage with the world.

STEPS THE DISTRICT HAS TAKEN:

- Infrastructure updates – WiFi in all schools
- Smart Boards in all classrooms: elementary and middle schools
- Interactive iPad/Desktop/video screen for multimedia learning in HS
- Technology integration specialists & embedded PD
- Tablet/laptop/google chromebook purchases and pilots – we are ready for a one-to-one environment and BYOD



SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS



Goal Three:

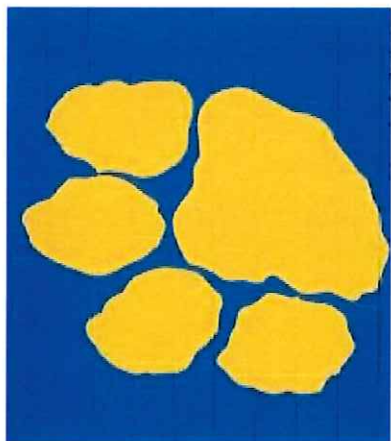
Communications

Improve internal and external communication in order to unite parents, educators, students, and the community in working collaboratively to achieve our Mission and Goals for learning.

STEPS THE DISTRICT HAS TAKEN:

- Citizens Academy
- Increased use of e-blast system – school as well as central office
- Press-releases to local media
- Personnel starting to use more social media to communicate with parents

DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT



DISCUSSION THOUGHT-STARTERS

How can the budget better support issues pertaining to...

- Curriculum?
- Use of technology to improve instruction and student engagement?
- Communication with parents, other town departments and boards, and community members?
- Overall student experience and achievement?

DISCUSSION THOUGHT-STARTERS

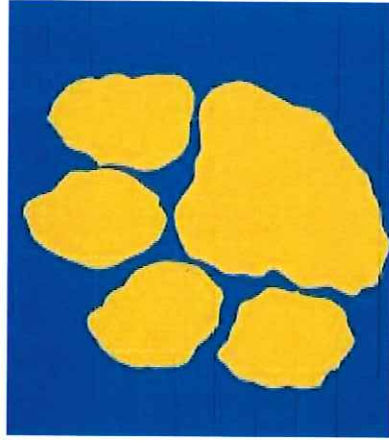
How can we better inspire enthusiasm among the community during the budget process?

- Information sharing?
- Meeting and referendum reminders?
(Note: the Superintendent can no longer use the ed-connect system for reminders to vote)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Questions on Presentation Information?

- Parts of the budget & ways to save
- Budget process
- Budget history/trends
- Strategic plan



Thank You!

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